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## Skateboard park graffiti disappoints users, municipality

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

When it comes to the municipality and the skaters, graffiti isn't what anyone wants to see at the Haliburton Junction Skateboard Park.

Sometime between the night of Friday, March 26 and the morning of Saturday, March 27, an unknown person or persons applied graffiti to much of the skateboard park. Although all of the graffiti was written with non-permanent "chalk-paint" and the messages were positive in sentiment – "Love one another" and "respect" – it was executed without permission from the municipality.

Long-time park user and 2016 HHSS graduate Matthew Pheaton was disappointed by the vandalism and wishes there could be surveillance to help with preventing this kind of behaviour.

"It would be great to see some sort of security go up here. For us, I don't care about cameras, we're just here to skate, have fun. I'm here to teach kids how to skate and have fun. That's all I'm here [for]. The people that come here at midnight, 1 a.m. do this kind of stuff. Even

see SKATER page 3



Haliburton Junction Skate Park was vandalized recently. Regular users of the park, like Matthew Pheaton, pictured, were disappointed by the graffiti. Although the messages were all positive and applied using a removable type of chalk-paint, the municipality and regular users discouraged this action for concern over the example it sets. The graffiti first appeared on Saturday morning, March 27. / DARREN LUM Staff

## Volunteers needed to help run Haliburton vaccination clinic

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With a new COVID-19 vaccination clinic set to open at A.J. LaRue Arena next week, the Rotary Club of Haliburton is looking for volunteers to help ensure the day-long sessions operate smoothly and efficiently.

Beginning next Monday, April 12 the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] will run clinics three times per week in Haliburton – on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays. These clinics have been scheduled until mid-June and will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

While the on-site medical staff will be provided and scheduled by public health, there is still a "great need" for community volunteers to assist with tasks such

as screening patients, escorting patients to their seats, cleaning and dismissing people after they have been given their vaccination.

Rotarians Ursula Devolin and Brian Nash are co-chairing this effort. Speaking to the *Echo* last week, Devolin said there are currently 24 clinic days scheduled in Haliburton, with each day requiring 24

see VOLUNTEER page 3



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# Premier announces four-week ‘emergency brake’

SUE TIFFIN

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

A day after Ontario saw the highest number of people with COVID-19 related critical illness admitted to intensive care units [ICUs] so far during the pandemic, and a day before the Easter holiday began, the provincial government announced on April 1 they were pulling their so-called “emergency brake,” and called for a four-week shutdown province-wide beginning April 3, through critics questioned if it was enough to prevent a further health-care crisis.

“We are facing a very serious situation and drastic measures are required to contain the rapid spread of the virus, especially the new variants of concern,” said Premier Doug Ford in a statement released on the afternoon of April 1. “I know pulling the emergency brake will be difficult on many people across the province, but we must try and prevent more people from getting infected and overwhelming our hospitals. Our vaccine rollout is steadily increasing, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. That is our best protection against this deadly virus.”

Modelling released by the provincial government’s COVID-19 scientific advisors in the morning prior to the shutdown announcement showed a surge of both COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations as variants of concern spread rapidly in the third wave of the pandemic in Ontario.

Ontario reported 2,557 new COVID-19 cases on that same day, while in Haliburton County, one new COVID-19 case was reported. On Saturday, that number jumped by seven new cases with Friday and Saturday reporting.

The shutdown announcement means the colour-coded zones of COVID-19 Response Framework are paused. The ‘emergency brake’ zone is listed above the grey zone in that framework.

As of 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, all 34 public health regions in the province moved into shutdown for four weeks.

Restrictions include:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a 5-person maximum, except for gatherings with members of the same household (the people you live with) or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone;
- Limits on in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers’ markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;
- No personal care services;
- No indoor and outdoor dining. Take-out, delivery and drive-thru options are allowed;
- Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness (e.g., gyms) with very limited exceptions;
- The closure of day camps;
- Limiting capacity at weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 15 per cent occupancy per room indoors, and to the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance outdoors. This does not include social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions, which are not permitted indoors and are limited to five people outdoors;
- Short-term rentals – cabins and cottages - are only to be provided to individuals in need of housing.

Additionally, Ontarians are asked to limit their trips out for necessities – food, medication, medical appointments, exercise, and supporting vulnerable community members. Indoor gatherings are not allowed outside of those people you live with, and outdoor gatherings are limited to five people with physical distancing maintained, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit.

The restrictions are similar to those that were already in place in Toronto and Peel Region.

“The announcement from the provincial government regarding the province-wide emergency break measures is disheartening for local businesses,” said Angelica Ingram, Haliburton BIA. “Our BIA members have gone to great lengths to incorporate policies and measures that result in a safe shopping/dining/service experience. Many of these emergency measures (like the ones announced today) primarily hurt small, independent businesses and don’t take into account the number of COVID 19 cases in the region. Moving forward, the BIA hopes the government begins to consider the health and resiliency of the local economy when making provincial decisions and that there is a light at the end of this long tunnel.”

Ingram added “It is encouraging to see some businesses can remain open with capacity limits in place. It is unfortunate that certain sectors of the economy, mainly dining establishments and personal care services, are constantly being asked to close their doors without much notice. This is resulting in business owners making tough decisions for their business and job losses in our community.”

Brick-and-mortar schools will remain open after Easter weekend for four days from Tuesday to Friday this week before the spring break – which was postponed from March to reduce spread of the virus - though 1,240 of 4,828 schools - almost 26 per cent - reported currently having at least one case of COVID-19 as of April 1.

Concern and confusion was shared by educators and parents in the past week that the April spring break would possibly be cancelled or postponed again. While one school board told parents the impending provincial shutdown would likely also result in a school closure, and some education unions have suggested switching to online-only classes after Easter, Education Minister Stephen Lecce said “schools are critical for students’ mental health and learning” and that the chief medical officer of health had said schools remain safe.

Locally, two cases of COVID-19 in students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School have been reported by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit as being resolved and last Friday [April 2] a Grade 5/6 class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School was quarantined due to one case. Asymptomatic testing has not been done on the entire school population in Haliburton County - a weekend event in early March for staff, students and their families to be tested resulted in just 69 people turning up.

A stay-at-home order was not issued during Thursday’s announcement, with Health Minister Christine Elliott noting the last time a stay-at-home order was in place – earlier this year – it had “tremendous ill effect on children and adults,” and said that with the warm weather coming, Ontarians should still be able to be outdoors, although previous stay-at-home orders still permitted people to be outdoors.

As of March 31, there were 421 patients in intensive care units in the province with COVID-related critical illness. On Wednesday, the CCSO reported that almost 60 per cent of hospitals with ICUs have less than five critical care beds left.

The previous high-water mark for COVID-19 patients in intensive care in Ontario was 420 on Jan. 15, during the province’s second wave of the pandemic.

Health care professionals have been pleading with the

government to intervene as critical care centres became overloaded, taking to Twitter to describe the situation they were seeing in their hospitals.

Before the April 1 announcement, a group of more than 150 ICU physicians released an open letter to Premier Ford, Minister Elliott and chief medical officer Dr. David Williams, requesting stricter public health measures.

“Ontario is at a critical point in the pandemic, and we are being led down a very dangerous path by using ICU capacity as a benchmark for tolerance of COVID-19 spread,” reads the letter. “We do not agree with this approach and believe new public health measures are required immediately in order to regain control of the pandemic and save lives.”

Variants of concern are causing those who get infected to have a higher chance of hospitalization, ICU admission, and death, reads the letter, which notes healthcare teams are seeing younger patients on ventilators - “many are parents of school-aged children” - including “entire families” that end up in ICUs.

“We are caring for people who have contracted COVID-19 at work, or who have followed all the rules and only gone out for groceries,” reads the letter.

While the government has increased bed capacity in hospitals, healthcare workers say there is a need for staff, which would have to be “borrowed from other crucial but non-emergency services.”

“As we are forced to increasingly scale back these services to treat COVID patients, non-COVID care suffers,” said the letter. “The surgical backlog will take years to overcome. Early-stage cancers will be missed.”

“As ICU doctors, we are the last line of defence, and we are ringing the alarm bell,” wrote the group. “Please hear it. We implore you to act now.”

On March 26, Anthony Dale, Ontario Hospital Association president and CEO shared a media release warning that Ontario’s critical care system was reaching its “saturation point.”

He said the levels being faced then – 1,871 patients in ICU, 401 of those with COVID-related illness, and 74 COVID-related admissions in the past 48 hours - were “already well beyond the threshold after which hospitals can operate normally,” he wrote. “If the number of ICU admissions continues to increase in the days ahead, as is expected, Ontario’s hospitals will be under extraordinary pressure to try and ensure equitable access to lifesaving critical care.”

“The health system will face punishing conditions in the weeks to come, and it is vital that each and every Ontarian redouble their efforts to protect themselves, their loved ones, and those who continue to fight the virus on the frontlines,” he said.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services noted the impact of the spread of the virus to our healthcare system cannot be underestimated, with far-reaching implications as hospitals across the province work together to ensure overall capacity of the system as a whole is maintained.

“While the local pressures on our hospital have remained manageable to date, Haliburton Highlands Health Services is obviously part of the broader regional and provincial hospital system,” said Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS. “Pressures experienced in one part of the system necessarily have impact on the rest. HHHS is working with regional partners to ensure that we are able to play our part in maintaining the capacity of the overall system. All hospitals have a supportive role to play in ensuring Ontarians have continued access to safe and efficient health care and we will be closely watching what is happening in other regions in preparation.”

For more information visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>.

## Police investigating downtown incidents

MIKE BAKER

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

The Haliburton Highlands OPP are following up on incidents at Emmerson Lumber and CIBC in Haliburton village over the long weekend.

With Easter Monday serving as a statutory holiday for administrative members of the OPP, details surrounding the incidents at press time were scarce. Sgt. Jason Folz, central regional media relations and community services coordinator, informed the *Echo* that more information will be made available later this week.

The *Echo* can confirm that, at around 7:15 on Sunday morning, a vehicle mounted the front steps of Emmerson Lumber and smashed through the front doors. The individual then left the scene without entering the store. The front doors to the local business were replaced on Monday.

Haliburton Highlands OPP interim detachment commander Daniel Collings told the *Echo* on Monday afternoon that there was also damage caused to the Haliburton CIBC banking machines. A male was arrested and held in custody overnight on Sunday, and was released on bail on Monday.

Visit the *Echo* online at [haliburtonecho.ca](http://haliburtonecho.ca) for more on this developing story.



By Monday morning work to repair the entrance to Emmerson Lumber had begun after a driver drove his vehicle into it./DARREN LUM Staff



# Skater wants to take care of park that is 'best we're going to get'

from page 1

though it's only [chalk-paint] like it's not actually spray paint ... It's the idea," Pheaton said.

He said in the past he's had people from the city come and ride at the park and comment how impressed they were that the skate park was as clean as it was.

This cleanliness is in-part owed to the users of the park, who work hard to keep it tidy. Pheaton says skaters see it as an investment in their enjoyment of riding.

"Us, the locals, we all ... this is our life. This is all we have, really. In the summer time this is where we live. I'm here every day if I can be," the electrician said.

He added the challenges and duration it took to get the park built provided the bedrock to why the regular users take the responsibility of being stewards of the park so seriously since it opened in June 2018. Reported in the *Echo*, the park took over the old ball diamond and cost close to \$210,000 to construct. The project was paid for by funds raised by the Skate Park Fundraising Committee. Dysart donated the land for the project.

This isn't the first time vandalism or graffiti has been seen at a local skate park.

The previous skate park located close to the library in town was vandalized with graffiti, and various tools such as squeegees used to clear the surface of water were broken.

Pheaton said among riders he knows there is a clear understanding that the park is a special place that isn't going to be replaced if abused.

The approach is "to keep this place for as long as possible because this is the end game. This is the best we're going to get for the time being unless someone decides to give us \$1 million for a nice skate park, but you know that would be crazy. We



Haley Soutar cartwheels while roller skating at the Haliburton Junction Skate Park. Soutar is among a group of regulars, who do their best to keep the park and the area around it clean, which included shoveling the snow a few weeks ago. /DARREN LUM Staff

just want to keep this because for all the kids in Haliburton this is where they all go," he said.

Pheaton still holds a great amount of gratitude for contributors and skateboard park supporters such as Pasi Posti, who served on the Haliburton Junction Skate Park committee. He believes local skaters have an obligation to keep the park clean to honour those who helped make it possible.

Through his Twitter feed @Haliburton\_Life, Posti wrote, "This just speaks to our local kids' need to express themselves and it's ironic that they're so close to finding a much better outlet. Glad the paint washes off and hope for a rainy day at this point. Our town has great kids, they just need that little xtra [sic] push to get rolling."

OPP interim detachment commander Daniel Collings wrote in an email the OPP were notified about this on March

29. Collings noted this is being considered a criminal offense, and the punishments include probation, community service and fines. No suspects have been identified.

"It's sad to see such disregard targeting a passionate community project for our local youth," Collings wrote.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts was disappointed by the graffiti. Though she recognizes the positive messages for what they are and appreciates it can be removed with little effort, she discourages this act as vandalism. Those who want to express themselves artistically in a public place are encouraged to present a proposal to council for approval.

This is a public venue that needs to be respected because it not only took considerable effort and money to have built, but it offers people of all ages and abilities an opportunity for recreation.

"We want our youth and even young adults like those guys [Pasi Posti and Matthew Pheaton] ... to have a place to play and be active. To be fit and challenge each other and we have ideas to do some competitions - sadly, obviously nothing last year. It wouldn't matter if it was the playground in Head Lake Park for little kids. Don't vandalize public property," she said.

Roberts said the township is moving towards the installation of a surveillance camera like they have planned for the Welcome Centre in Head Lake Park, which is expected to open later this year depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

Anyone concerned about the cameras related to privacy must realize it's intent is to help to discourage vandalism and other illegal acts, she adds.

"It is used to protect your property essentially and prosecute people who have damaged your property or have done illegal transactions in public places," she said.

Pheaton wants the public to know to not judge skaters on how they look.

"It's definitely none of the people that ride here and call this place their sanctuary," he said. "You can have the sketchiest looking skateboarder and he is the weirdest dude ever, but at the same time he'll be the nicest person ever because that's just how skateboarders I find around here are. We all grew up in the same clique. We're all really close," he said.

Addendum: Over the Easter long weekend more graffiti was seen at the skate park and the OPP were seen in the parking lot. The OPP did not confirm details of an investigation and Mayor Roberts was not aware of the latest incident and did not comment. It's not known if this latest graffiti was applied with permanent or non-permanent material.

## Volunteer response for vaccination clinic has been 'phenomenal'

from page 1

volunteers to fill the different roles that have been outlined by public health.

Since launching an online sign-up sheet just prior to the long weekend, Devolin said the response has been "phenomenal."

"In less than 48 hours, we were pretty much 100 per cent full volunteer-wise for the first week of clinics, with a few more people listing themselves as on-call" Devolin said. "I think this says a lot about the community spirit here. People want this done. I think what we're seeing is people are really anxious to ensure people in our community are vaccinated."

In organizing the schedule, Devolin has created shift timetables, with volunteers able to sign up for specific roles for either the morning or afternoon. Each shift lasts for between four and four-and-a-half hours, Devolin said.

Right now, she is only scheduling up until April 25 at

the request of the local health unit.

"They had asked me specifically not to put out all of the dates. They said they can't guarantee vaccine doses. The health unit is only getting information every two weeks on how many doses they're going to get," Devolin said.

While it's unclear exactly how many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been set aside for the clinic in Haliburton, the province reported last week that it had given nearly 27,000 Pfizer and 4,800 Moderna vaccines to HKPRDHU to date. The health unit will receive an additional 11,700 Pfizer and 5,900 Moderna doses this week.

While Rotary has taken the lead on this initiative, Devolin said it has been a real community effort thus far.

"We're up to 80 different contacts already - that's including members of the Rotary club, plus the general community and then a collection of [Haliburton & District] Lions club members. The Lions have been really proactive in helping with this process - they're really stepping up," Devolin said. "This is absolutely a commu-

nity effort. Rotary doesn't have enough members to do this by ourselves."

Anyone aged 16 and above can register as a volunteer. Anyone wishing to serve as a volunteer must also sign a confidentiality agreement.

With the provincial government last week extending COVID-19 vaccination booking to more age groups, individuals aged 70 and over in Haliburton County now qualify to receive their shot. It's important to note that the clinic at A.J. LaRue Arena is by appointment only.

"People still need to book appointments through the health unit - they can do that [by phone or online]. I cannot stress enough that we are not booking appointments for people," Devolin said. "If you turn up and you don't have an appointment, you won't be allowed in."

To book an appointment, call 1-888-999-6488 or visit covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/.

To register as a volunteer, contact Ursula Devolin at ursuladevolin@hotmail.com, or call 705-455-2037.



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# Despite lockdown, some April Break activities available

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Given changing restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact organizers before planning to participate in any in-person events to ensure they are running as planned.

## Spring Activity Kits

The Municipality of Dysart et al and the Haliburton Highlands Museum are distributing Spring Activity Kits free of charge to children, with pick-up being available the week of April 6 to 10 and April 12 to 16.

"The kits are going to be super fun," said Kate Butler, director at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. "They're going to feature activities from the museum, from the recreation department and from the environment department. There will be some supplies to get kids out gardening, activity booklets, scavenger hunts, a fun spring craft and some other surprises."

Kits might include a seed starter kit, a scavenger hunt with a chance to win prizes, an activity from the environment department, a museum scavenger hunt around town and a butterfly wind sock activity.

The museum will also be posting spring break activities on their social media throughout the week, providing opportunities to do activities together while apart.

"We usually offer a bunch of in-person programming for the Spring Break," said Butler. "But, of course, all that sort of stuff has to be scaled back for this year, so this is a way for us to still provide some activities that families can enjoy, but from the comfort of their homes."

Kits are geared toward children aged six through 10. Quantities are limited and kits must be reserved ahead of time - contact Kate Butler at 705-457-2760 for more information or to reserve your kit.

## Spring Break Library Lineup

Mark your calendar for the multitude of spring break offerings from the Haliburton County Public Library.

For a fun and quirky Online Storytime with "Robster and Lobster in the Reading Lagoon," tune in live on the Haliburton County Public Library's Facebook page on Saturday, April 10 and April 17 at 10:10 a.m., or visit HCPL's YouTube page for those shows and more.

Kids wanting to create and explore can sign out kits for one-week home loans. The library is already sharing Snap Circuits (engineering, electronics and circuitry kits) thanks to a donation from the Lions Club, and Makey-Makey invention kits, and now with a donation from the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are adding 3D Pens and Ozobot robots beginning April 12.

Also on April 12, at 10:10 a.m., kids and adults alike can tune in to a Zoom storytime with author Phyllis Bordo reading her book, *Lilly Esther Conquers the Wor-*



Rob Muir sings songs, reads books, and tells the funniest jokes you've ever heard in videos shared online through the Haliburton County Public Library's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Two episodes will air over the weekend of the April Break. /Screenshot from HCPL YouTube

ries, and attendees that register in advance can create a "worry monster" from a grab 'n' go craft activity bag. Sign up for free by emailing [info@haliburtonlibrary.ca](mailto:info@haliburtonlibrary.ca).

From April 12 to April 16 at 1 p.m., Rob Muir is leading a Video Game Asset Creation in Blender series geared for teens. Tune in live or visit the HCPL Facebook or YouTube page at any time after each session. Topics are creating and animating a basic Minecraft-style character, creating a virtual set for animation/green screen, creating and animating an advanced Pixar/Fortnite-style character, animating in 2D and a session on scripts, shortcuts, sharing your stuff and sites with resources.

On April 13, "Family" grab-and-go craft bags become available for pick-up while supplies last at the Minden and Dysart branches for the school break.

From April 13 to April 17, a self-guided story walk via 'window browsing' will be available all week at the Minden, Dysart and Wilberforce library branches.

Also from April 13 to April 15, at 2 p.m. daily, Family Maker Breaks for school-aged kids will be broadcast online to watch live or later on HCPL's Facebook and YouTube pages. On April 13, Nicole will lead a "Cool Clothespeg Craft." On April 14, make tasty spring "dirt" parfait cups with Jaime - no actual dirt is involved. On April 15, see the making of a stop-motion sewing video with Noelia.

Visit [haliburtonlibrary.ca](http://haliburtonlibrary.ca) for more information.

## Outdoors at Abbey Gardens

At Abbey Gardens, two on-site programs are happening over the April break to help get kids outdoors.

On Wednesday, April 14 from noon until 4 p.m., kids aged six to nine can "Take a Walk on the Spring Side," exploring the trails of Abbey Gardens to experience "how nature looks, sounds and smells as it begins its new season." Physical distancing is in place and the program is held entirely outdoors, so "fair weather" programming is in effect which means it will only run if there are no extreme weather conditions predicted. The cost for the program is \$40 per child.

On April 13, 14 and 15 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., "The Mane Event," welcomes kids aged nine to 15 to a three-day camp "that fosters confidence and leadership



Haliburton Highlands Museum and the municipality of Dysart et al have prepared Spring Activity kits packed with fun-filled activities for kids to enjoy during their spring break. / Submitted photo

skills in a safe outdoor environment."

"Each day will include an introduction to horsemanship and hands-on care, management, and training of our horses: learning to properly catch, groom and handle our rare breed ambassadors," reads information about the program, which is based on ground training techniques and care rather than riding. "Fun horse focused activities, crafts and journaling will be interspersed with Equine Assisted Learning sessions. Using our powerful teachers Maple, Sammy, and Flapjack, participants will develop confidence, self-awareness about their behaviour, and alternative skills to help them overcome challenges and cope with the social pressures they face today."

The program is limited to six youth, two per pony to maintain safe physical distancing, and costs \$165 for the full three-day program.

Registration is available online at [abbeygardens.ca](http://abbeygardens.ca).

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## County planning director resigns

The County of Haliburton is seeking a new director of planning as current director Charley White has tendered her resignation in order to pursue a new career opportunity.

County councillors accepted that resignation during a March 24 meeting, with kind words for White, who's also served as the county's deputy chief administrative officer, from council and staff.

"I am sorry to read this resolution, and we'll certainly miss her jaunty attitude, as she always approached her work in a great way," said chief administrative officer Mike Rutter.

"I must say that we have a lot more enthusiasm for some resolutions than we do for others," said County Warden Liz Daniels.

Staff





Century 21 realtor Brandon Nimigon is raising funds for SIRCH Community Services through this year's Jump in the Lake Challenge.

# Haliburton realtor raising money for SIRCH Community Services

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Century 21 realtor Brandon Nimigon needs help from the local community if he is to avoid an uncomfortable 60-second dip in the frigid waters of Head Lake.

The second-annual Jump in the Lake Challenge is taking place on May 1. Organized by fellow realtors Dean Michel and Jennifer Bacon, the inaugural event raked in more than \$15,000 for the Coboconk Food Bank, with a handful of further donations made to other local causes, including the Minden Food Bank.

"Last year, when the pandemic hit, we kind of had this sense that the community was going to be in great need. So, thinking a little outside the box, I said if I could raise \$500 I would jump into Balsam Lake," Michel said. "Then I said if we could raise \$1,000, Jenny would jump in the lake too."

The initiative went viral, raising more than \$3,000 within a few days. Then Michel started to hear from other individuals, who wanted to do more than just give some money.

"We heard from all kinds of people who wanted to jump into a lake too. Without even thinking too much about it, the event just snowballed. In the end we had 20 different people jumping into six or seven lakes, from Sturgeon Lake all the way up to Horseshoe Lake," he said. "Everyone filmed videos, and there were some amazing submissions. The best? An older lady, she jumped into the Rosedale River. People were watching from the bridge on Hwy. 35. This lady was in her 70s, but she tied a rope to herself, put a life jacket on and then had someone film her running up the pier and into the water. It was awesome."

For Michel, there was zero hesitation when it came time to renew the event for a second year. Now he just

wants to make it bigger and better.

That's where Nimigon comes in. As a colleague of Michel's, Brandon had heard all about the success of the first Jump in the Lake Challenge. When Dean threw down the gauntlet, issuing a challenge to see who could raise the most money, Brandon was all in.

"Dean asked if the company could get involved a little bit more, and I thought that was a great idea. I said right away that we would help out in any way that we could. Then, all of a sudden, he made this side bet with me to turn this into the 60-second challenge – whoever raises the most money gets the win, and the loser has to not only jump into a lake, but has to hang out in there for a minute," Nimigon said. "I'm not one to turn down a challenge, so I said let's go for it."

Dean's chosen cause this time around is the Coboconk Wellness Centre. Not yet built, the facility will cost \$7 million to construct. Thus far, the City of Kawartha Lakes has committed \$1.5 million towards the build, while the Coboconk community has promised to raise \$1 million. Dean is aiming to raise \$25,000 himself through this challenge.

Nimigon will be raising funds for SIRCH Community Services.

"I wanted to do something a little more local for where we are, and SIRCH is a fantastic organization that does so much for our community," Nimigon said.

When asked how much he hoped to raise, Nimigon said "I'm just trying to beat Dean! If it's \$10 more than Dean, then I'm happy."

Unlike organized polar bear dips that typically happen in one central location, the Jump in the Lake Challenge promotes social distancing and takes place off each participant's dock, or waterfront location of their choosing. To join the challenge as a participant or a donor, visit [kawarthalakeside.com](http://kawarthalakeside.com).



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## points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

## It's a ridiculous market

**I**T'S HARD To believe what's happened to the housing market over the past 12 months.

Call me naïve, but when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit a little more than a year ago and it became clear just how big an impact it was going to have on all of our lives, I felt a long-needed correction was on the horizon. And I wasn't alone.

I can remember talking to real estate agents shortly after the implementation of the first provincial lockdown. Many of them were worried about how they were going to make a living the further we got into the pandemic. The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in its 2020 housing market outlook, released in June, predicted the nation's housing market would crash by 18 per cent by the year's end.

Instead, we saw the single greatest annual increase nationwide that we have ever seen.

According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, from February 2020 to February 2021, the national market has increased 25 per cent, from an average price of \$542,484 to \$678,091. Ontario is the second most expensive provincial market, just trailing British Columbia, with prices spiking, on average, from \$693,886 in February 2020 to \$864,159 in February 2021.

The jump has been even more pronounced in Haliburton County and the rest of the Lakelands region. Over the past 12 months, the local housing market has seen prices increase by 37.4 per cent – from \$364,900 in 2020 to \$501,500 in 2021.

So how did we get here? I can think of a couple of reasons.

First, the Bank of Canada dropped its interest-setting rate to 0.25 per cent last March in an attempt to ease the impact of the pandemic on the economy. The bank has maintained the rate, the lowest we've ever seen, for the past 12

months and has indicated it will stay at that level until at least 2023.

These lower interest rates have opened the door to buyers who previously didn't qualify for a mortgage under the federal government's new stress test system.

Then there are the sharks out of Toronto. Since the onset of the pandemic, more people than ever before are working from home. That has seen many individuals flee the city in search of a slice of rural paradise, where they can enjoy their surroundings while still getting the job done. With higher salaries, and, potentially, money in the bank from the sale of property in the

city, many of these people can afford to bid way over asking price on properties they want – driving prices up for everyone else.

My wife and I recently purchased our first home and the process was unlike anything I've ever been through. We registered bids on multiple properties, often times going way over the asking price, and still comfortably lost the bidding war. In the end, we had to jump on an opportunity

our realtor presented to us for an in-house listing, allowing us to buy the place with no competition. Of course, to do that, we had to go substantially over the asking price. But hey, at least we were able to buy.

I fear that many from my generation, and the generations to come, won't have that same opportunity, no matter how well they plan or how much they save as young adults.

We're now facing up to the very real possibility that, perhaps for the first time ever, young adults with jobs in Haliburton County won't be able to afford a place of their own in their hometown.

And, according to industry professionals, this red-hot market is showing no sign of cooling down. It really is a ridiculous market.



mike baker

## Editorial



Early morning

by Darren Lum

## Expecting the unexpected

**M**ONIKA WAS surprised at what she saw outside her patio door. It was the week after Easter and she was in a reflective mood. Sitting at the kitchen table having lunch, she was looking at her backyard. The snow had finally gone except for what she called 'dead man's corner', a spot beside the woodshed never touched by the sun.

As she sat eating her lunch and contemplating all manner of things large and small, a butterfly dipped and fluttered past the glass. Really – a butterfly? she thought. Only a day before there had been a short-lived dusting of snow.

Ah Canada and especially Haliburton, she thought. You never knew what you were going to get weather-wise. One Easter she had watched her kids jumping into a frigid lake – 'Come on in mum, it's fine,' they had cajoled her. Then there was that snow storm another year when she had slid off the road and almost into the same lake. When spring rolled around you could expect getting stuck in mud, slipping on a frozen puddle or watching robins hopping about looking for worms.

Years and another life-time ago, Monika had left south Texas at the beginning of April, driving a lot of miles to return home. Leaving a place of palm trees, ocean breezes and sandaled feet, she had watched the landscape slowly change as she travelled north. By the time she hit Ontario, the world was grey and her jacket too thin. Trees had not yet started to bud, rivers were overflowing and people were grumbling about spring's late arrival.

These days the spring landscape was no longer top of mind for most of her neighbours. Instead it was the pandemic sweeping the world and one's personal health. She heard snatches of conversation when she picked up her mail at the post office. Vaccinations, sanitation and predictions of doom. In the grocery store everyone walked around looking mysterious and furtive

as they tried to complete their shopping as quickly as possible.

Monika missed her family and friends. Talking on the phone or communicating through technology was not the same as seeing people in person. She told herself she was lucky to live in a small rural community which was still relatively safe and serene. Sure there had been an influx of people from larger urban areas but for the most part everyone continued to follow the rules to avoid spreading disease.

It's just that daily life had become very routine and predictable. She stayed home most days, all day. Sometimes when she was out for a walk, she saw her neighbour Jim pass by on the road. He might stop for a chat, he in his

truck, she standing back on the shoulder. But she missed their crib games, sharing a bottle of wine and gossiping about the other neighbours.

Putting her dirty dishes in the sink, Monika decided to take a closer look outside. The butterfly she had seen earlier made her want to find more signs of happier times ahead. So pulling on her rubber boots, she headed out the door.

The sun was warm on her face and for a moment she wondered

if it was warmer than it should be. Could this be a sign of global warming? she wondered with a sigh. Putting that thought out of her head, she began walking down the road. As she passed Jim's place, she saw his spring pond was continuing to grow as runoff drained off the hill behind his house. She could hear the red-winged blackbirds chattering in the willows beside it. Then there was a flutter overhead and two mallards glided onto the pond's surface. This was an unexpected delight. They floated over the water, the male silent and the female quacking loudly. No doubt ducklings would arrive in the not too distant future and Monika hoped the ducks stayed around long enough for her to see them. New life was exactly what was needed right now, she thought.

## Down



sharon lynch

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# points of view

## Men cannot live by bread alone

IT'S A SAD fact, but in this world, there are bread winners and there are bread losers. Consider this my public admission that, for a while this morning, I joined the latter group.

That realization became evident when I reached for our bread bag to make toast and found the bag empty.

Well, it wasn't totally empty. There was still half of the heel end slice that Jenn had been picking at to feed our old dog Millie her medication. Basically, each morning, Jenn wraps Millie's pill in a small bit of that slice to make the medication more palatable. What was left looked like a piece of ragged bread that rats had nibbled on. It was roughly handled and stretched, totally unfit for human consumption.

But it was nothing a little jam couldn't fix.

Unfortunately, Jenn intervened and reminded me that that piece was earmarked for the dog. Which left me a) resentful of the dog and b) with the stunning realization that we had no bread for breakfast.

For a lot of people, this might not be a big deal. But I was born to parents from the Mediterranean island of Malta, where people live by basically two commandments: "Thou shall eat bread with every meal" and "A ladder is your friend."

Bread consumption is so ingrained in that culture that I wouldn't be surprised if the



steve  
galea

### Loon Tales

words "Loafer" and "Crusty" were actually compliments there.

So to recap, I was the only person of Maltese heritage on the planet who did not currently have a loaf of bread within arm's reach. This is the kind of thing that gets your heritage revoked.

It was an honest mistake, however. I knew we were low on bread yesterday and, as always when we get to a Code Red level, I had made plans to go to the store and replenish our supply. Just as I was about to go, Jenn announced she had arranged to pickup groceries the next morning. That's when I took a perfunctory look at our bread stocks and thought we had enough slices to get us through till then.

I know, you don't take chances like this when you are at Code Red.

But a day of searching for non-existent Easter bunnies and eggs had dulled my senses. And, frankly, I thought we could do it.

Sadly, I had failed to take into account the portion of the loaf reserved for the delivery of dog medication. And that miscalculation proved fatal for our bread supplies.

So, there I was this morning, without toast to adorn my eggs and bacon.

My father would have been horrified. For bread was what you made sure kids ate at every meal to ensure that they would be full and did not descend upon the fridge and larder like a pack of locusts.

I'm not sure he was right, but I will say that, after breakfast, I felt a little like swarming a crop field.

But eventually, I was surprised to find that I got over it and actually didn't miss that slice of bread as much as I thought I would.

You learn something new every day I suppose.

Having said that, Jenn picked up our groceries after breakfast and she came home with two loaves of bread, as opposed to the one we normally get each week.

I know it's extravagant. On the other hand, we have the dough.



## pic of the past

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students took part in the musical No No Nanette back in March, 1984. There were scores of students involved in the production that saw three performances before supportive audiences.

## letters to the editor

# The list serves a purpose

To the Editor,

Response to the editorial on March 24th, 2021, regarding the Sunshine List.

The purpose of the Sunshine List is transparency, not to illicit jealousy. It explains how taxpayer money is being spent. When the Sunshine List was first published, as the Editor notes, the number of people on it was 4,501, and now it has 205,606. In our community and across Ontario, people making over \$100,000 is still a big deal, especially when it is being paid for by taxpayers.

Since 1996, the Ontario government has only balanced their budget, according to Wikipedia, five times. The accumulated debt since 1996 has grown from \$108.8 billion to \$398 billion. In the recent 2021/22 budget, the interest payment for Ontario's debt is over \$13 billion. Just think about that for a moment. That doesn't include municipal bonds, federal debt or personal debt. That is just the provincial interest payment. And as bad as Ontario is, the Canadian government is much worse.

In Haliburton County, the salary for the five municipal CAOs accounts is over \$775,000. The total population for Haliburton County is approximately 18,000 full-time residents (2016 Census). For comparison, the CAO salary for Cobourg (population of 19,000) is \$165,000. The CAO salary for Wasaga Beach (population 18,000) is \$207,000. We have 24 elected councillors in our four local municipalities. They each represent approximately 750 people. This is very expensive for taxpayers. Without the Sunshine List, Haliburton taxpayers would not be easily able to compare the salaries against the services.

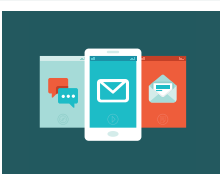
Transparency is important. Haliburton County taxpayers have a very expensive government with far too many elected officials per voter and too

many senior staff. One CAO for 18,000 people is not at all uncommon. In fact, there are 240 municipalities in Ontario with a population between 1,000 and 18,000 with one CAO. The recent pandemic has shown us that if there is jealousy, it is between the have and have nots - the public sector has become the 'haves,' and the private sector the 'have nots.' I'm not aware of any full-time public servant who was laid off as a result of the pandemic. They received their paycheques and pension benefits, regardless of whether they worked. For example, the Federal Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) estimated a cost of \$828 million between March and June for federal civil servants that did not work for a variety of reasons. That money has to be paid by taxpayers. And it impacts Haliburton County and our ability to pay for critical services now and in the future.

The point is, the Sunshine List highlights the ever-increasing salaries of the public sector. Government budgets show the corresponding increase in debt. The debt has to be reduced eventually. Unfortunately, the quality of life for Haliburton will also be reduced as we cannot afford the government that we voted for. Easy decisions now will result in tough choices in the future. And with the federal budget on April 19, hold on to your wallets!

If there is any sunshine in this sobering accounting of government salaries, it is with the frontline staff at hospitals, long-term care facilities, pharmacies, grocery stores and many others who have been working every day to protect us, feed us and keep us safe.

Kelly Mitchell  
Haliburton



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to  
mike@haliburtonpress.com



# Rotaract celebrates one year anniversary

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It's been more than 365 days since Rotaract started in the Highlands.

Members reflected about what has been and will be for the future of the service club for young adults over 18 "who are dedicated to finding innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges while developing leadership skills and making friends from around the world."

The club came from a partnership between the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce following months of discussions to transition the chamber's Haliburton Highlands Young Professionals Network, or YPN, to a Rotaract Club, joining more than 20,000 other clubs around the world.

Rotaract president Rebecca Anderson said the club has evolved rapidly since it started.

"In March 2020, we held an information session and had 30 people sign up on the spot, which brought Rotaract to life. Fast-forward one month and we had already established our board, director positions, and other leadership roles within the club to keep us organized," she wrote in an email.

"Over the next year, Rotaract continued to take on more responsibility, as we worked toward our primary goal: service above self. Rotaract adopted two kilometres of road on County Road 21, ran a Trick or Treat initiative where we delivered candy on Halloween to doorsteps all over the county, used a grant to provide 36 large boxes filled with personalized basic needs to local families, partnered with SIRCH to provide much-needed



The Rotaract Club recently turned one and have many achievements to look back on including the Halloween Trick or Treat initiative, which included Rotaractors Christine Carr, Joseph Quigley, Rebecca Anderson, Emma Becker, Scott Walling, and Danielle Martin, who gathered for a photo to recognize the effort on Halloween Day on Oct. 31 in Haliburton. FILE photo

technology to locals, lent a few helping hands to Haliburton Rotary with their monthly Good Food Box initiative, Rotaractor Kelsey Redman sewed 60 masks in the first few weeks of lockdown to give out for free, and 60 more masks were created by locals using recycled materials from the material drop-off we set up. And we did *all* of this in the face of the global pandemic. We've only ever had one in-person meeting."

Christine Carr, who serves the club as its services project director that coordinates service projects, was one of those first 30 who joined at the end of the first information session.

"I was kind of surprised how many young people there were that came

out and it's an area that's lacking in the county, so I was excited to meet new people and get involved," she said.

Although her parents live in the area, the high school teacher for the past five years within Trillium Lakelands District School Board welcomed the opportunities to not just give back to the community during the pandemic, but appreciated the social opportunities, even if it was virtual.

"It kind of gave a social outlet. You know we had bi-weekly meetings where we got to hang out and socialize and chat and get to know each other," she said.

Highlights in the year as a club member included the long-term effort related to offering residents in need with the essentials given in the basic need bags, as funded by a grant given by the United Way. She also liked performing the cleanup of a section of road the club adopted.

There has been a development since joining the club as far as her connections with the community and within herself.

"I've made connections with SIRCH. I've made connections with United Way, like all these different organizations and just the confidence to go out there and help and make these connections," she said.

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School teacher works with high school student members of Interact, which is a similar service club, but for students. Since joining Rotaract, she has become their district representative. From her Rotaract experience, she not only offers her Interact members her insight about her experience to contribute to the community, but also a glimpse into what is possible after high school.

Carr said Rotaract has partnered with the Rotary Club of Haliburton, but it is a distinct club because of its membership, which includes people from all of the Highlands, who have a diverse set of backgrounds, who work in education and the arts.

The Rotaract president said this past year was an incredible learning experience for the club and personally.

"We've seen firsthand how generous and tightly knit community members are. We've learned how capable each of us are individually and what can happen when we bring our strengths together and collaborate. We've discovered how creative we are as a group as we continue to navigate around ever-changing COVID restrictions. Personally, I feel as though Rotaract kept me moving forward while the rest of the world came to a standstill. When it felt like nothing was happening in the world or in our community, Rotaract members were virtually meeting to figure out what we could do and how we could work together during the most challenging times. Naturally, social connections formed too and our meetings morphed into a fun social space, which was a blessing throughout the most isolating times of the pandemic."

Anderson adds the club is planning another outreach effort and hopes to perform its third roadside cleanup for May. For the future it hopes to add more members, fundraise, apply for grants to bring more money into the community, increase connections with the Rotary Club's of Haliburton and Minden, and HHSS Interact – the student Rotary club, and brainstorm to use resources to benefit our community.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the club or in becoming a member can email [haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com](mailto:haliburtonrotaract@gmail.com).



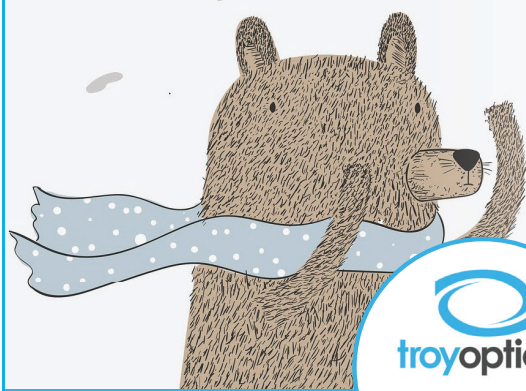
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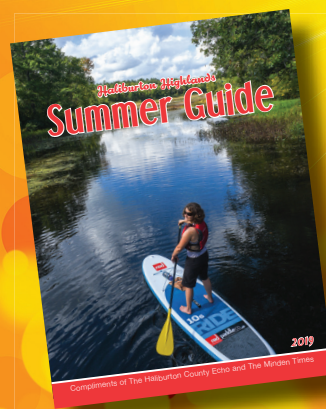


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# Radio Playhouse brings the theatre to you

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The show must go on and it will do so over the airwaves into your living room, over your car speakers or straight into your ears via headphones beginning April 7.

Canoe FM Radio Playhouse will air on the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning April 7 from 6 to 7 p.m., featuring a show produced by a local theatre group such as Highlands Summer Festival, Highlands Little Theatre and Rural Rogues on the first Wednesday, and a historic radio play broadcasting on the third Wednesday of the month.

Local radio theatre will help fill a need not just for a community of keen listeners, but for the writers, performers and producers themselves who have been missing the opportunity to delight and entertain due to pandemic restrictions.

"In March of 2020, when everything locked down for the first time, Highlands Little Theatre was just a couple of weeks away from the opening night of a show," said Kate Butler. "In the early days of the pandemic, a group of theatre folks came together once a week to read plays together on Zoom and while that was lots of fun, it wasn't the same as regular theatre."

Rita Jackson, who has been performing through singing and performing theatre for more than 25 years, including the last four in Haliburton County, said the lack of theatre has been disheartening to say the least.

"Well, using that well-used theatre saying, 'break a leg,' it kind of feels like I broke that leg, and both my arms, and I am in a full body cast," said Jackson. She and her husband, John, have been "bouncing around the idea of a radio theatre program ever since the pandemic took its first grip on our lives," and after being involved in the reading of *Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol* on Canoe FM this past December, immediately realized the community needed more on-air performances.

"Community theatre is, at its core, about community and camaraderie – a group of people putting on a show really becomes like a family, so in addition to missing putting on the shows themselves and connecting with an audience, we've also missed that connection within the theatre community," said Butler. "A couple of times, we've started to edge towards getting back onstage, but it's just felt safer, thus far, to keep things on hold. So, when the opportunity for radio theatre came up, it seemed like the best of



Paul Vorvis, Rita Jackson and John Jackson rehearse *Quotation is a Suitable Substitute for Wit*, which will be broadcast on the Canoe FM Radio Playhouse, beginning April 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. /Photo submitted by Kate Butler

both worlds!"

The pilot show on April 7 will feature a presentation by Rural Rogues Productions of Butler's short play called *Quotation is a Suitable Substitute for Wit*, which was performed as a live show in 2018 and has been adapted for radio, and the first part of a play which Michael Clipperton and Butler wrote last year called *Too Much Doubt*.

"The plan is to draw listeners in, so that they'll be looking forward to the rest of that one at a later date," said Butler, noting the second part will air on May 5.

Both plays, said Butler, are inspired by Haliburton County mysteries, and she said it's "important for listeners to remember that these plays are creative works inspired by historical events, especially since both mysteries remain unsolved to this day."

*Quotation is a Suitable Substitute for Wit* was inspired by a story Butler heard before she began working at the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

"It was an account of a woman who had simply vanished from Eagle Lake in 1892, while visiting her daughter and her daughter's family," she said. "There was no evidence as to what had happened, so I decided to let her enjoy an adventure. To say much more would be to give too much away, so people will just have to tune in."

*Too Much Doubt* is inspired by the 1917 disappearance of Jack Laking, the son of the owner of the Laking Lumber Company, who disappeared along with the company payroll on Drag Lake. While she and Clipperton had been thinking about writing a play about the mystery for awhile, Butler said the pandemic made them decide to get it down on paper.

"I think audiences will enjoy learning something about the history of Haliburton's mysteries, and how these events can inspire a fictitious response," said Clipperton. And then, laughing: "Most of the names have been changed to protect the guilty!"

Rural Rogues Productions has had experience bringing theatre to the stage, but also to the air.

"After Rural Rogues presented *Re-Generation: A Haliburton Tale* in the summer of 2017, we recorded it at Canoe FM the following winter," said Clipperton. "It was broadcast in two parts in the late evening ... It was a fun experience for us, during which we learned something about creating a theatrical experience with the use of only our voices. No costumes, no sets, no hair/makeup, etc. We did incorporate some live music, but other than that it was just the words that the audience heard. And, most importantly, there was no live audience which is so crucial to the face-to-face theatrical experience."

Clipperton has adapted his work in other ways during the pandemic, pivoting to online teaching to teach drama/dance/creative movement at Lakehead University, as well as a course in directing for the stage for a community theatre company in Merrickville.

"What has been absent from my regular routine is a constant round of rehearsals that would normally occupy two or three evenings a week and some of my week-ends," he said.

Rural Rogues Productions will be presenting shows in April and May. In June and July, Highlands Summer Festival will be presenting a piece, and then in August and September, Highlands Little Theatre will present their work.

"Each theatre group has a slightly different mandate, so they'll be presenting different types of pieces, which will make the show really exciting, as there will be such a variety," said Butler.

"Radio theatre has so many different kinds of appeal," said Butler. "I think that it really encourages audiences to slow down and be fully present with an unfolding story. It also gives a great opportunity to use your imagination to picture the action while you listen. Whatever age you are, there's a huge appeal in being told a story - I think that's part of the reason why there's currently such a growing interest in audiobooks."

In choosing which plays to produce, Butler said cast size and suitability for radio were the greatest considerations.

"Casts needed to be small – or at least small numbers in any one scene at any one time – to ensure that people could adhere to social distancing guidelines within the Canoe FM Radio Hall," she said. "With radio theatre, the visual is, of course, in the listener's imagination, so we also needed plays that told their story in a way that was suitable for the medium."

The Rural Rogues team will be adapting plays they already have but also hope to offer a workshop on writing for radio later this year, Butler said, "to help cultivate some new material."

The Canoe FM Radio Playhouse will be hosted by Jackson, who is already well-known to Canoe listeners for hosting on-air alongside her husband John, and having appeared in many local theatre productions, including *Glorious: The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins*, presented by Highlands Little Theatre in 2019. She is delighted to take to the airwaves this week, and is grateful for what she called a strong "commitment" from local theatre groups, playwrights, performers and Canoe FM's production team for keeping theatre alive in the community during the pandemic and beyond.

"There are many supporters of the Haliburton Highlands theatre scene – be it as performers, backstage crew or entertained patrons, and this radio show will offer them something they are all sorely missing," said Jackson. "Also, on the alternative Wednesdays of the Playhouse programs, will be old radio shows of the 1930s, '40s and '50s where the listeners take themselves back to the day when a family's entertainment came from their imaginations triggered by stories over the radio. After all, what is radio but the thrill of theatre."

Canoe FM Radio Playhouse airs on 100.9 FM on April 7, or can be listened to at [CanoeFM.com](http://CanoeFM.com) during or after the live broadcast.

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Reaching, rolling and turning for fun

Four-year-old Julian Mardus works on his bridge during an acro and gymnastics dance class for boys at the Haliburton Dance Academy in Haliburton. Taught by Wyatt Hutchings, the students learn acrobatic tricks such as handstands, cartwheels, chest stands, elbow stands, walkovers, side and front aerials, and tumbling lines. / DARREN LUM Staff

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	8	15	0	73	64	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	28	56	1	602	532	31	42	13
Northumberland	33	105	2	516	471	17	12	0
Total***	69	207	3	1,191	1,067	51	55	13

Eight local cases of COVID-19

Haliburton County currently has eight unresolved cases of COVID-19, and 15 current high-risk contacts according to data uploaded by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit on April 3. The next update will be April 6 due to Monday's holiday./Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



Eight-year-old Michael Sedgwick twists in place during hip hop/breakdance class for boys at the Haliburton Dance Academy.



Dance student Shawn Colliss rolls backward during an acro and gymnastics dance class.

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# Haliburton business pays for upgrades to OPP 'soft interview room'

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

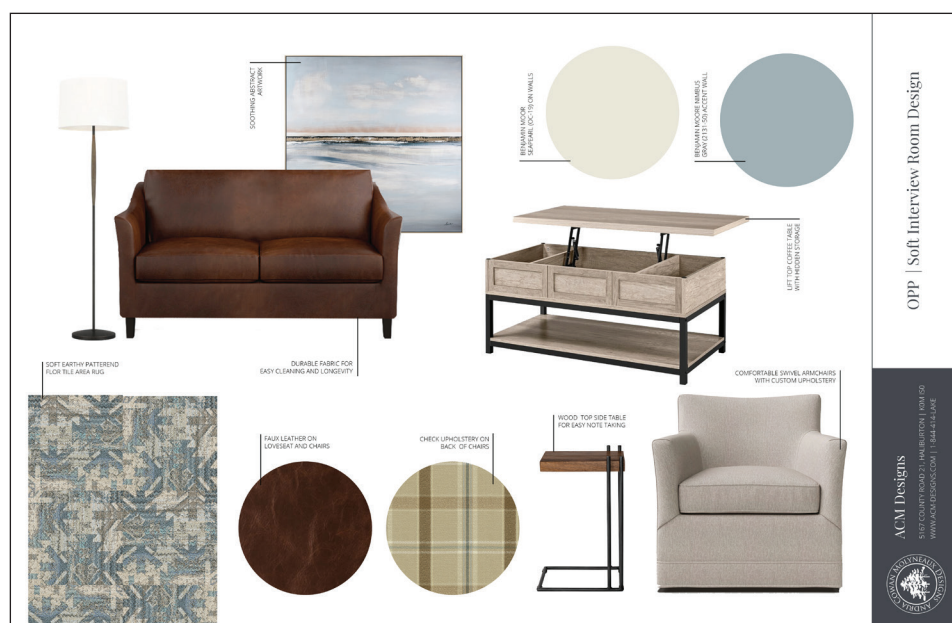
Haliburton business ACM Designs has pledged more than \$15,000 to renovate an "important space" at the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment.

As a former police officer Andria Cowan Molyneaux knows all too well the difficulties and struggles that come hand-in-hand with a career in law enforcement. When she transitioned to a new career, opening ACM Designs in 2015, she made a promise to herself that she would always support a sector she dedicated a considerable amount of her life to.

Rather than wait for an opportunity to fall into her lap, Cowan Molyneaux chased one down. Earlier this year she reached out to senior administration from the Haliburton Highlands OPP with an idea to renovate the soft interview room at the detachment building. The space is primarily designated for victims of violence, to provide a safe area for them to share their stories with police officers.

"We feel a lot better when we're safe, and we feel more open when we feel safe," Cowan Molyneaux told the *Echo*. "It's a great honour for me to be a part of the team on this project. This is something that, I feel, is going to have a great impact. If you go somewhere, as a victim or a witness and you feel like you're being taken more seriously, if you think this looks like a serious operation, then you feel more confidence in what's happening and it impacts the overall credibility of the experience."

In developing their vision for the room, Cowan Molyneaux and another mem-



With renovations to the soft interview room at the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment ongoing, Andria Cowan Molyneaux of ACM Designs shared a 'storyboard', showcasing some of the furniture and styles that will be included in the space.

ber of staff from ACM Designs met with investigators to determine where cameras and microphones had to be placed, and essentially built around that. The room will boast a faux leather loveseat, armchairs and coffee table, and will be decorated with "calming colours" designed to make the space feel comfortable and inviting.

All of the furniture is custom-made and awaiting delivery. Cowan Molyneaux expects the new and improved room will be ready for use by June.

Liane Spong, Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment commander, noted the importance of the renovation and the positive impact it will have in recent comments to media.

"The OPP promotes the use of a soft interview room as a means to make the sharing of difficult, often embarrassing or traumatic stories less challenging, as one of the steps we take in ensuring trauma-informed care and a victim-centred approach to investigations," Spong said. "Simply put, it has a more comforta-

ble environment to help make the process easier."

While the updated space will provide a better environment for victims and witnesses to share their stories, it will also be helpful for police professionals, Cowan Molyneaux believes.

"I think we have to think about the other user here – the detectives. If you go to work every day and feel that your surroundings are unattended to, or made up of afterthoughts, then that impacts how you feel about your job," Cowan Molyneaux said. "These rooms are emotional spaces, not just for the people telling the story, but for the people listening to it, deciphering it and figuring out a plan for what to do next. That's an emotional experience for them too, so they also deserve to feel safe in that room."

"It's great to do this for the victims, and it's natural for us to focus on the victims, but also it's really important to remember what police officers do. There's an impact to what they do. That's where things like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder develops. They have this burden of hearing truly terrible things, and then they're tasked with doing something about it," Cowan Molyneaux added. "It's not an easy job, not at all. But I think our officers are fantastic, and any little thing I can do to make their jobs a little easier, I'm more than happy to do it."

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## Grade 5/6 ASES class and Bus #20 required to quarantine

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students in a Grade 5/6 class have been identified as close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

An April 2 email to families in the Grade 5/6 class from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] notes that students attending that class on March 30, March 31 or April 1 have been "identified as a close contact of an individual who is positive for COVID-19." On April 3, a letter was sent home to students of Bus #20 with the same quarantine dates.

The letter serves as official notice of mandatory quarantine, noted as a legal requirement to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and testing recommendation for those children.

As of April 2, the students "must quarantine at home from now until midnight on April 15," and can return to school on April 16 as long as they have no symptoms. They should not leave their property unless to go for testing or seek medical attention. It is recommended they go for testing at their nearest assessment centre on April 8. If they have been tested prior to April 8, "a re-test is strongly recommended on April 11."

"If your child does not have symptoms, all household members must stay home except for essential reasons," reads the letter. "Essential reasons include attending work/school/childcare and essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescrip-

tions. If your child has symptoms, household members must quarantine until a negative test result is received."

A second letter from Jane Austin, principal, Archie Stouffer Elementary School, was sent to all families of students attending the school. It notes that students not considered a close contact of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 "may come to school, as usual," and "do not need to stay at home (isolate) or go for testing unless they start showing new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 and do not pass the daily COVID-19 self-screening."

"We know this information may be upsetting," said Austin in the letter. "We are working closely with Trillium Lakeshore District School Board and [the HKPRDHU health unit]. Together we are taking necessary steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 within our school community. Due to privacy laws, the health unit will not release personal information about any staff or student who is ill unless deemed necessary."

"Please know that whenever there is an identified COVID-19 case at a school, there is additional cleaning and sanitizing of the school above and beyond the extensive cleaning and sanitizing that occurs throughout each school day. The safety of our students and staff is most important and we continue to follow all public health protocols."

Further information is available at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>, or by calling 1-866-888-4577 ext. 1508. Parents/Caregivers with any questions or concerns can contact the health unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 5020 or covid19@hkpr.on.ca.

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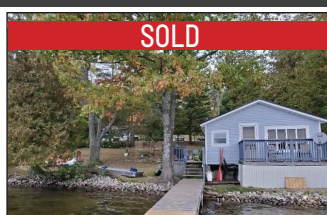
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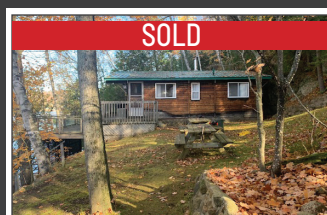
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# Vaccination clinic provides relief to elders: ‘overwhelmed and so thankful’

SUE TIFFIN  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In just eight days, over about 40 hours, a team of people made up of physicians, nurses, paramedics, administra-

tors, roads crew, volunteers and spouses of those team members vaccinated 1,946 people in Haliburton County.

“It was a very successful few days,” said Kimberley Robinson, executive director and manager, Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team/Haliburton Family Medical Centre.

The last clinic at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre was held March 30, as mass vaccination clinics are prepared to open in the upcoming weeks.

The site was one that occasionally saw tears – not for the jab of the needle, but for the relief felt by our community’s older population – some born in the early 1930s – as some of the first Ontario residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine one year into the pandemic.

“They were simply overwhelmed and so thankful to be receiving the vaccine,” said Robinson. “Many people were relieved and excited. We heard from so many, how they are now one step closer to seeing their grandchildren, children, sister/brother. People commented that the clinic was not only efficient, but that every person they had contact with was so pleasant and kind. There were many kudos to the team.”

To manage distributing leftover shots – vials of vaccine must be used in full or risk being wasted – Robinson said if leftovers were likely, the team first called patients who were booked the next day in the clinic to see if they might be able to come a day early; then searched the HFMC database to see if patients born in 1946 or earlier had been booked for a vaccination or had already received one and call them in if not; and if additional older residents could not be found, health care workers supporting the vaccination clinic who hadn’t received their first dose were vaccinated.

The clinic required much support to run as efficiently as it did, and Robinson said that came together right from the entrance, with Dysart et al municipality supporting the event by provid-

ing paid parking passes for those attending the clinics, and members of the roads crew and park and rec directing traffic and handing out consent forms as people arrived.

“All participants that I spoke with were honoured to be part of the COVID vaccine roll-out locally – including me,” said Robinson.

Volunteers from Lakeside Church, spouses of other team members and county administrators screened and greeted patients, who were then coordinated by nurses. Medics in the observation area assisted with the checkout process and an administrator or clinician stood by in case of an adverse event. Staff from Haliburton Family Medical Centre, Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team and the Haliburton Highlands Health Services covered check-in, check-out, immunizing and observation. A nurse with Haliburton Highlands Health Services immunized each person – almost 2,000 participants, most people who were born prior to 1946.

“I was overwhelmed by the gratitude,” said Robinson. “I was also overwhelmed by the support of my colleagues, our community partners, and others. Team members of the HHFHT and HFMC put aside their daily roles and responsibilities to work in the vaccination clinics, which meant long days and late nights. We had administrators with the County of Haliburton, roads crew, Haliburton County Paramedic Service medics and administrators, retired physicians, spouses of our team members, members of the Lakeside Church community, HHHS and Community Support Services. They just got it done. I am so proud to be part of such a spectacular team.”

Locally, mass vaccination clinics will be held at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden beginning April 6, and the A.J. LaRue arena in Haliburton beginning April 12.

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. One who manufactures
  - 6. Science degree
  - 9. Database management system
  - 13. Desert
  - 14. Inventor Musk
  - 15. Welsh valley
  - 16. Round Dutch cheese
  - 17. Saying
  - 18. Comedian and TV host
  - 19. Uppermost portions of the brain
  - 21. City in Transylvania
  - 22. Where astronauts go
  - 23. Men’s hairstyle
  - 24. Indicates position
  - 25. One point east of due south
  - 28. Businessmen may have one
  - 29. Grass part
  - 31. Running back Gurley
  - 33. Unwavering
  - 36. Options
  - 38. Annoy
  - 39. Greek mountain
  - 41. Pastas
  - 44. Fishes
  - 45. Wrap
  - 46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
  - 48. Seize

- 49. The Constitution State
- 51. Upset
- 52. 1991 men’s Wimbledon champ
- 54. Central Chinese province
- 56. Predisposition
- 60. A notice of someone’s death
- 61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
- 62. Swiss river
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Finger millet
- 65. \_\_ Allan Poe
- 66. German river
- 67. Brew
- 68. Kenyan river

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Millisecond
  - 2. Acts as military assistant
  - 3. Knot in a tree
  - 4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
  - 5. The Ocean State
  - 6. Point the finger at
  - 7. Parts in a machine
  - 8. Midway between northeast and east
  - 9. Portray precisely
  - 10. Blister
  - 11. Mental illness
  - 12. Nose of an animal

- 14. What students receive
- 17. Semitic peoples
- 20. Beats per minute
- 21. Family of drugs
- 23. Atrocious
- 25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
- 26. \_\_ or bust
- 27. Icelandic poems
- 29. A citizen of Pakistan
- 30. Very pale
- 32. Metric linear unit
- 34. Sea eagle
- 35. Biblical judge of Israel
- 37. Isaac’s mother (Bib.)
- 40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 42. Cool!
- 43. Large hotel room
- 47. Type of boat (abbr.)
- 49. Picked
- 50. Type of hookah
- 52. Attack
- 53. Directs
- 55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
- 56. Finished negotiation
- 57. Heroic tale
- 58. Middle Eastern country
- 59. Protein-rich liquids
- 61. Malaysian Isthmus
- 65. Spielberg’s alien

Answers on page 16

## Trial set for Hart, preliminary hearing ongoing for Ferguson

Two men charged with second-degree murder in separate occurrences that happened weeks apart in 2019 both made court appearances last month.

Norman Hart’s last court appearance was on March 26 this year, and was set for pre-trial. His next court appearance is also set for pre-trial, on April 19. His trial date is currently set for Jan. 24, 2022.

Hart, a resident of Dysart, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder on June 18 after Haliburton Highlands OPP were called to a house along Highland Street in Haliburton where they found the deceased body of Robert James Brown, 49, of Haliburton.

A preliminary hearing for Robert Ferguson was held in a virtual court session on March 30 and will continue on April 6. A

trial date has not yet been set – the matter is still before the Ontario Court of Justice.

Ferguson, a Highlands East resident, was 58 years old at the time he was arrested and charged with second-degree murder after the death of 29-year-old Dylan Dahlke, a Dysart et al resident, in the early morning hours of July 6, 2019.

The preliminary hearing will continue Tuesday morning in a virtual session, in Courtroom 6 at 9:30 a.m. A publication ban is in place at this time, “until the accused has been discharged or, if ordered to stand trial, the trial has ended.”

For more information, visit [www.ontariocourtdates.ca](http://www.ontariocourtdates.ca).

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# County vaccination clinics begin this month, new MoH arrives

SUE TIFFIN  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually March 31 with acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill.

A mass vaccination clinic begins this week on April 6 at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden, and the following week on April 12 (until June 12) at the A.J. LaRue arena



**Notice of a Public Open House Regarding the Proposed Disposition of the Crown Reserve Abutting Centre Lake**

The shoreline of Centre Lake is generally comprised of a 200' Crown Reserve, which also includes a 66' Shore Road Allowance. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has received requests to purchase the Crown reserve from two abutting upland landowners.

The MNRF will be conducting a future public consultation with respect to this request in accordance with their policies and procedures.

The purpose of this meeting is to invite any individual who would like to address this issue directly with Council. If you do not wish to attend a virtual meeting, you may submit comments in writing to the Clerk. Council will use the information gained from this consultation to provide comments to the MNRF when they undertake their consultation program.

**Date and Location of Public Meeting:**

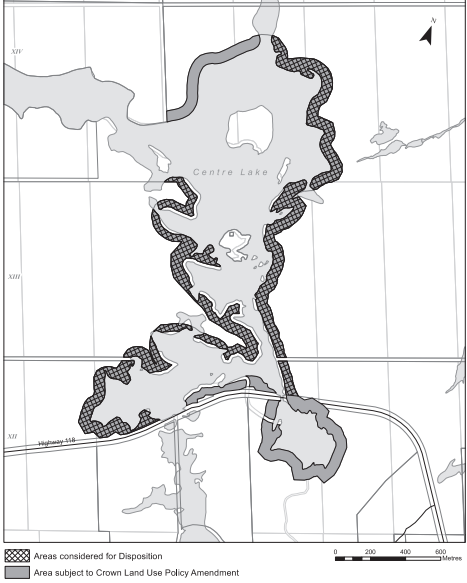
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
Time: 9:30 am

**Note:** This will be a virtual meeting. If you wish to **speak** at the virtual meeting, please call or email the Municipal Clerk (2) days prior to the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. **If you wish to only listen to the virtual meeting then you may go to the municipal website and just prior to the meeting beginning there will be a link to click on.** If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting that you wish to speak at then please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk two (2) days prior to the meeting.

**Municipal Contact Information:**

In order to participate in this meeting please contact the Municipal Clerk, Ms. Robyn Rogers at [rogers@highlandseast.ca](mailto:rogers@highlandseast.ca) or by telephone at (705) 448-2981 ext. 422

The attached map generally illustrates the location of the Crown reserve and shore road allowance which is the subject of the proposed disposition requests. Please be advised that the attached map is only for illustrative purposes and is not a survey or reference plan.



in Haliburton. Clinics are also open at the Lindsay Exhibition, which is a drive-thru site, and the Fenelon Falls Community Centre in City of Kawartha Lakes, and at the Cobourg Community Centre and Trent Hills Emergency Services Base in Campbellford in Northumberland County. Those looking to book an appointment for a vaccination can do so online at [www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or by phone at 1-888-999-6488. If a clinic does not appear to be available, residents are asked to check again at a later date when more appointments have been added. Some people might be eligible for a vaccine – including health care workers, Indigenous adults and adult recipients of chronic home health care – though not old enough to use the online booking system. More information about determining eligibility and making an appointment is available here: <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/03/26/are-you-eligible-for-covid-19-vaccine/>

## MOH recommends against travelling outside of health unit region for vaccine

Gemmill has noted that anyone living in Ontario is able to get their vaccine, when eligible, anywhere throughout the province – that means people in Haliburton County can leave the county to get their vaccine, and also that seasonal residents or anyone else can get their vaccine in Haliburton County. When asked by a reporter if that contradicts the province’s recommendations for people to avoid travel if possible, Gemmill said he doesn’t want people driving more than 20 or 30 minutes to a site. “We should not be encouraging people to travel long distances to get this, because when you travel – you’ve heard me say this 100 times – that’s one of the ways that virus can be taken from one community to another,” said Gemmill. He said, though, that if someone is already in a location, they can get the vaccine there rather than having to return to their primary residence. “I do not encourage people to travel to get this vaccine,” Gemmill said.

## Pandemic still a threat despite low numbers in HKPRDHU region last week

In the past 14 days, Gemmill said 57 cases have been reported in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, most of them not from outbreaks. “I’m so glad about that, I’m so glad that the long-term

care homes seem to be safe because of the vaccine that the residents and staff have received,” said Gemmill. He said he remains worried about the risk of variants of concern – not that the vaccine as it rolls out won’t be effective in preventing that spread, but that it is more highly transmissible and is resulting in more cases of younger people. “We’re not going up here in the same worrisome degree that they are in other parts of Ontario, in some ways we’re extremely lucky here, but I don’t ever want to say that things are OK here, or quiet, because things can turn on a dime as we’ve seen in other parts of the province,” said Gemmill. “You just think that things are going fine and then the next thing you know you have an outbreak that leads to 40 cases or whatever. And it’s been happening here, there and everywhere, and it could happen here as well.” Gemmill said his colleagues have told him that in their regions, the cases of critically ill people they’re seeing more now are younger people – those in their 40s and 50s – and that intensive care unit beds are occupied in most of the major centres. “Let’s count our blessings for the moment, and say that if there’s a third wave we aren’t really seeing it here to the same degree,” said Gemmill, noting the pandemic isn’t out of control here but reinforcing that “anything can happen” and the public should continue adhering to public health guidelines until the population is fully vaccinated.

## Dr. Bocking begins role as HKPRDHU medical officer of health

The March 31 press conference marked the last for Dr. Ian Gemmill, who has been acting medical officer of health for the HKPRDHU health unit since Dr. Noseworthy retired in December. Dr. Natalie Bocking has worked for the last four years as a public health physician at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority. She received her medical doctorate from McMaster University and is a public health and preventative medicine specialist. During her time in northern Ontario, she was also a locum family physician. She and her family now live in City of Kawartha Lakes. “She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in providing public health programs and services in rural areas of the province and has most recently worked with northern First Nations communities to provide public health services,” Doug Elmslie, chair of the board of HKPR District Health Unit, said.

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## Haliburton Lions Polar Bear Challenge

It is unique, it is fun, and it typically happens in February at Frost Fest. It is cold, it raises money for our local hospital: Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and for the Garron Family Cancer Centre: Hospital for Sick Children. And, oh yes, it has become a tradition of community caring and sharing for eight years of yesterdays. Our most recent yesterday, February 2020, was a record year. Those wonderful dippers collected pledges and jumped in for charity. It was also the year that our Lions District A16 Governor, Deb Dawson joined the cause and through her efforts we qualified for a grant from LCI (Lions Clubs International). Because of Deb and all our brave and hearty dippers, we were able to raise the total donated to Haliburton to \$17,493.95 and \$54,186.20 to Sick Kids. Wow! Thank you to the Hospital for Sick Children who acknowledged and celebrated our donation with a plaque, dedicated to Lions A16, on their donor wall. Thank you to HHHSF who always shouts out our praises. But we know the thanks belongs to the dippers. Thanks dippers! Today, well, as you know, this is our year of COVID-19 and so many events have been cancelled. No, not cancelled forever just for the todays of 2021. We hold true to our commitment to donate. We are pleased to announce our recent donation of \$1,000 to Sick Kids and \$2,000 to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. It was a typical blustery winter day when Lions Tina Hadley and Jim and Marilyn Frost brought the big cheque to Lisa Tompkins, Director HHHSF. It is always fun to celebrate giving! Tomorrow, oh, we will be back. It will be unique. It will

be fun. It will be cold and the dippers and Lions will be there. We are already looking forward to the tomorrows of 2022 and the Haliburton and District Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge. We hope to see you all next year!

Submitted by Gail Stelter



It was a typical blustery winter day when Haliburton & District Lions Club members Tina Hadley and Jim and Marilyn Frost presented a cheque for \$2,000 to Lisa Tompkins, Director HHHSF, in March. /SUBMITTED PHOTO



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# Community celebrates research at virtual U-Links gathering

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Each March, the annual U-Links Celebration of Research event fills a room with unadulterated excitement from a community joining to share in the research findings of the year.

A collective hubbub created by individuals meeting and greeting each other, asking questions of students and their work even before presentations start, and discussing whether their group or organization is involved this year or they're attending out of curiosity typically precedes the event in which research projects are shared, discussed and appreciated.

Last year, the celebration, which invites the public to learn about research being conducted by Fleming College and Trent University students partnered with host organizations from throughout Haliburton County, was cancelled after the pandemic was declared just a few weeks before the event would have taken place and the province stayed home in its first lockdown. This year, the Celebration of Research went virtual, attended by more than 100 people including members of the Minden-based U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research management committee and staff, of local community groups and organizations, faculty supervisors, participating students and their family members, joining together from throughout Ontario. The research projects – of a scientific, historic, cultural, social, economic, or environmental nature – were showcased in three presentations in a main room on the Zoom platform, and in breakout rooms in which guests clicked from room to room or stayed focused in one room, having the opportunity to learn more about 30 community-based research projects.

As reported in the March 16 issue of the *Echo*, projects shared in the main room included Biodiversity Planning and Protection in The Land Between presented by Samantha Dunlop, Shoreline Stewardship – Capacity Building Through ENCO Programming and Local Partnerships presented by Mystaya Touw, and Benthic Program Overview, presented by Kiera Schweighardt and Leanne Matthews. Breakout room poster sessions featured projects ranging from Planet Hal-



Trent University student and researcher Leanne Matthews presented at the Celebration of Research on her findings after studying benthic invertebrates at seven sites on Kennis Lake. Matthews is seen here, left, with program coordinator/supervising biologist, Brendan Martin, holding a sample collected at one of the sites at Kennis Lake./Submitted photo

burton Radio Show Ideas, Kennis Lake History Book, Diabetes and Dental Caries, Blue-Green Algae Mitigation Strategies to an Abbey Gardens Municipal Composting Project.

Guests appreciated the unique set-up of the event, which kept people moving on their screen and also during a stretch-filled movement break.

Greg Wickware, of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, was able to hear about four Haliburton Highlands Land Trust projects – one focused on Club Moss Monitoring, one on Dragonfly Monitoring, one on Bird Monitoring and one on Frog Monitoring.

"I thought the virtual offering was amazing and I would thank all those that made the Celebration of Research possible – maybe the best, since people like me who live many hours away were able to attend and applaud the work of stu-

dents," he said. "They really do pour their hearts and souls into the projects."

Wickware said the students, professors, and U-Links co-ordinators involved have been a support for the community's progress.

"As an organization we love looking for [or] suggesting opportunities for the student to expand their knowledge of the natural world and especially for them to know and understand their work is important to the future of the HHLT," he said. "While their work is not always perfect that is not the point, their work offers the HHLT the opportunity to open internal dialog as to the opportunities for us to move forward. What an amazing contribution that U-Links and the university make to the citizens of Haliburton County and to the HHLT."

Rachel Gillooly, coordinator for the Haliburton County/City of Kawartha

Lakes Roundtable for Ending Poverty said the Roundtable collaborated on two research projects with U-Links and students: Sustainable Procurement in Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes, and Factors Securing Employment in Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes.

"I was really pleased to hear, first hand, the work our research students [and their academic advisors] undertook for their respective projects," said Gillooly, noting she hoped that the newly created Fleming Service System Manager and local municipal governments would "pay appropriate attention to the findings and consider moving forward with some of the excellent recommendations."

"It would be wonderful if some attention was paid to the research results, and appropriate systemic/policy and system changes/adjustments made to work towards making some changes in approach," said Gillooly. "After all, poverty, economic and social exclusion is all about systemic inequities: an unequal ability to access services. I believe the preliminary findings from these two research studies may go a long way to enhancing our community's resilience and build on and enhance what's working but address what's not. I hope that the powers that be are willing to take a look and listen, and work towards making our communities more resilient and prosperous."

Linda Middleton of Crystal Image Studio recently worked on a design project with U-Links. She said she loved the virtual offering, though would have liked even more time to check in on each project.

"They do such great work here, we are lucky to have them and have people that pay attention to them and their work," she said.

More information about U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research is available at [ulinks.ca](http://ulinks.ca). Groups and organizations, businesses and municipalities with project ideas or questions of interest to members of the community should contact U-Links staff before June 30 if possible at 705-286-2411 or [admin@ulinks.ca](mailto:admin@ulinks.ca) to get started. To watch this year's Virtual Celebration of Research video or review research posters and key findings, visit <https://www.ulinks.ca/celebration-of-research.html>.

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We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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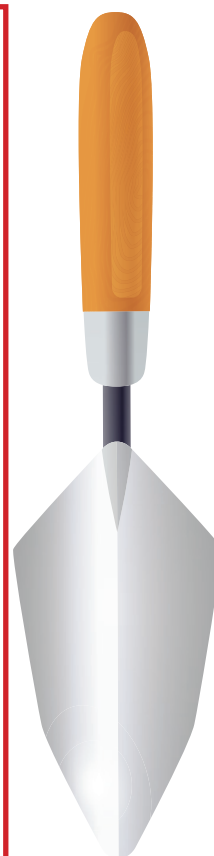
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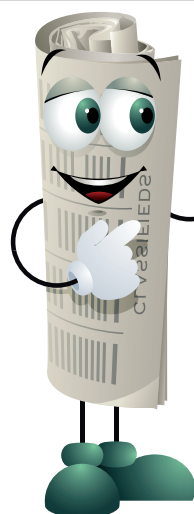
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We are currently offering a full-time position in our clinic for a Registered Psychotherapist or Registered Social Worker. Under the direction of the Clinical Team Lead, the Therapist is responsible for assessing and providing services for children, youth and parents in Haliburton County to address social, emotional and behavioural needs. The ideal candidate will have a solid background in clinical psychology or social work, and a keen interest in the issues currently impacting the children, youth, and parents in our community.

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- Able to work independently and collaboratively in an interdisciplinary team environment
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- Willingness to go above and beyond for both clients and colleagues
- Valid driver's license

#### Skills and Experience:

- Experience in a therapeutic role with children, youth and families
- Knowledge of trauma-informed and anti-oppressive practice
- Case management experience
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HALIBURTON COUNTY MINDEN ONTARIO

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# THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

## AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 1 No. 26

Wednesday, March 2, 1983

'Voice of the Highlands'

16 pages

35 cents

### Winter training

See page 12



### Peewee league play

See page 6



### 1970-71 Huskies

See page two



## Waste is no hazard

Environment Ontario officials say there's nothing to worry about with regards to the disposal of urea formaldehyde insulation at local dumps.

An Eagle Lake resident contacted the *Echo* last week, stating that the insulation being removed from area homes was being disposed of at the local dump. The resident wondered whether the foam insulation might pose a health hazard.

A call to Environment Ontario's Wayne Moore in Bracebridge indicated there was no health hazard. While urea formaldehyde can cause harmful vapors when contained in an enclosed area, "once it is exposed to the air there is no further problem," Moore explained.

He said that several contractors "working in the Haliburton area" had asked his office whether or not they should dispose of the insulation in local dump sites -- and that Environment Ontario had okayed the practice.

Moore did say that it would probably not be a good idea to burn the urea formaldehyde -- and added that it would be best disposed of by being buried.

He reiterated that the foam is only harmful "in confined spaces," and is rendered harmless "once it is exposed to the air."

## Is Fearrey a Clark fan?

The annual get-together for municipal politicians -- the event that draws the biggest number of local officials -- is without a doubt the Good Roads convention, held annually in Toronto.

Each year a number of top speakers, including provincial and occasionally federal cabinet ministers, use the meeting as a forum to bounce their views off the "grass-roots" audience of Ontario mayors, reeves, councillors and aldermen.

This year's keynote speaker was Tory leadership candidate Joe Clark, and according to Dysart reeve Murray Fearrey, Clark's public image is not the one the national press would have the country believe it is.

### Impressed

"He was certainly more impressive in person...than how I had seen him while watching television," Fearrey said.

"Contrary to what was reported on national TV and in the larger newspapers he (Clark) was well-received by the 1500 delegates in attendance," he continued.

The national media focussed its attention on Clark's comments about the Liberals, but Fearrey said the bulk of his time was devoted to discussion "about his party's position on various issues...such as make-work projects, and government waste."

Clark told the delegates that the federal government had spent \$45 million on copying equipment and some \$25 million on entertainment, food and accommodation for government departments, and \$20 million "on an organization that was promoting government unity."

Fearrey said Clark proposed that the stop-gap make-work programs, such as NEED and COEEDP should be replaced by some long-term employment opportunities. The PC leadership candidate said more permanent projects, such as reforestation, airport construction and the building of docks would be of

Please turn to Page 3



Where were you at noon on Saturday. If you were in downtown Haliburton, there's a good chance you're in this picture. This aerial view of the town was taken from a Canadian Armed Forces helicopter. The

forces were on manoeuvres in the Irondale area over the weekend. In the foreground is the arena and curling rink, and in the background highway 118 curves around Sir Sandford Fleming College.

## Ministry replies to local doctors

The ministry of health has responded to charges by local doctors that MMR II booster shots, administered recently to county students, were to a degree unnecessary.

A letter from the ministry appears on page four of the *Echo*. In writing on behalf of health minister Larry Grossman, Dr Barbara Blake states that "the decision made by the ministry to use this vaccine rather than the single vaccine is based on the recommendations of a committee consisting of representatives... (from) the Ontario Medical Association, the Canadian College of Family Practice (Ontario Branch) and the Canadian Pediatric Society."

"For a number of reasons about ten per cent of those vaccinated with these (single) vac-

cines (against measles, mumps, and rubella) may not be protected," stated Blake.

"The fact that the majority of cases of measles now being reported are occurring in children who have (already) been vaccinated serves to illustrate this point," she continued.

Dr Blake went on to state that there were benefits to "selective re-immunization," especially "where there is no increased cost or effort involved and where there are no contradictions to the use of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in individuals immune to one or more of these viruses."

Dr Bob Heyes of Haliburton said the ministry letter "was the exact response expected" by the doctors of Haliburton and Minden. "The individual still has the

choice of paying (for single shots for specific viruses) or getting the MMR II (a booster shot that combines vaccine for all three viruses)."

"The letter has changed nothing...we're a bit disappointed, but the government tends not to budge on such things."

The doctors had hoped the ministry would make single vaccines for the three viruses available here, so that children already inoculated against one of the viruses would not have to receive a non-essential booster shot.

About 75 students did not receive their MMR II shots, compared to the over 200 who did. The shots were administered by Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge District Health personnel in county schools, at no cost to parents.

## Hospitality training centre off ground

Over a year of meetings, research, studies and surveys have culminated in the establishment of a training centre in Haliburton county that is the first of its kind anywhere. The centre will create a labor pool of well-trained personnel to waitress, bartend, assist in the kitchen and tend to housekeeping duties in the hospitality industry.

The need for such a training establishment was identified by both members of the industry and

those involved in employment counselling. Formal training, it was agreed, had been neglected in these fields because the amount of skills required to do these jobs well had county. On the other hand, in Europe, being a waiter or waitress, for instance, was a highly respected profession requiring an apprenticeship.

A federal government program The project is being funded

through a federal government grant under the Local Employment Assistance Program (LEAP). The committee sponsoring the project is made up of representatives of the Board of Education, the Manpower Outreach Centre, Sir Sandford Fleming College and the Chamber of Commerce. The committee first secured funding last June to investigate the needs of the industry and

Please turn to Page 3

## Redistribution draws criticism

by MARTIN BIEFER  
Echo Editor

Officials from the townships of Cardiff, Monmouth and Snowdon aren't particularly pleased by a recommendation that their deputy-reeves be eliminated from the county council.

The recommendation to change the representation format of the county council was made two weeks ago by the county's management committee -- a committee chaired by Dysart reeve Murray Fearrey.

Under the current system, there are 29 votes cast by 19 people on money-related matters. Anson, Hindon and Minden's reeve and deputy-reeve now have two votes each, as do their counterparts on Dysart and Stanhope municipal council.

Cardiff's reeve has two votes, and the township's deputy reeve one vote -- the same system that is used for Glamorgan and Lutterworth, and Sherborne et al.

Monmouth and Snowdon's reeve and deputy-reeve get a vote each, and Bicroft's reeve gets one vote. The formula applies to any recorded vote.

Under the new system, as mentioned last week, Dysart would get four votes; AHM three; Stanhope, Sherborne et al, Glamorgan and Lutterworth two; and Snowdon, Monmouth, Cardiff and Bicroft one each.

### Squeezing out the little guy?

Monmouth reeve Keith Tallman said he was "certainly very opposed" to the new formula -- which will be discussed further by council at upcoming county meetings.

He presented three arguments against the new plan -- that it would be "a loss of a vote for our municipality," that it would mean there would be "no one to replace the reeve if he's absent" and that aspiring candidates for reeve in the three townships would lose the valuable experience they gain as deputy-reeves.

"It's unfortunate that we have to go through this again," said Tallman. "I thought we had resolved this last year." Last year's compromise solution -- which was ultimately rejected by the provincial



Reeve Murray Fearrey

per cent of Cardiff ratepayers are cottagers, and he admitted it would be "more than possible" that population in the township would grow enough by 1985 to allow the deputy-reeve to stay on at county council.

He suggested wryly that the larger municipalities might be employing a "divide and conquer" strategy.

Anson, Hindon and Minden reeve Lyle McKnight pointed out that his municipality would be losing a vote if the new system is carried out -- but their representation would ac-

### Monmouth's Tallman is against plan

government -- would have allowed the three deputy-reeves to sit on council and vote on all but recorded issues.

"This new proposal is not good for the county," added the Monmouth reeve. However, he did state that "unfortunately, it's fair...you can't say it's not fair."

"Here in Monmouth we're part of the county too...and it looks like they are trying to squeeze the little fellow," he concluded.

Snowdon reeve Bob Vick said he was "not too well pleased" with the new proposal.

He said he felt the move was "selfish" on the part of Dysart, and added that it would mean that "two or three townships will be running it all (the county) now."

Deputy-reeve Ross Duncan of Cardiff township said the overall contribution of a member municipality should be looked at before numbers. Cardiff, he pointed out, had the second highest increase in apportionment last year.

"It's unfair to take more money from someone...while taking away their vote," he said. Duncan said he was "looking into the matter very carefully" and would have more to say when the matter comes up again at county council.

"Down in the south-east of the county we have a high concentration of development," he said. A full 80

per cent of Cardiff ratepayers are cottagers, and he admitted it would be "more than possible" that population in the township would grow enough by 1985 to allow the deputy-reeve to stay on at county council.

He suggested wryly that the larger municipalities might be employing a "divide and conquer" strategy.

Anson, Hindon and Minden reeve Lyle McKnight pointed out that his municipality would be losing a vote if the new system is carried out -- but their representation would ac-

"However," he added, "it's too bad to see municipalities losing their deputy-reeves."

"You can't argue about it being fair," he said.

However, he added, it was unfortunate that three municipalities would lose their deputy-reeves if the system is adopted.

### A matter of fairness

Dysart reeve Murray Fearrey told the *Echo* that the current voting pattern had no real relationship to the apportionment. The new system is "much fairer to the larger municipalities," he said, "and it's still fair to the smaller ones...it will take at least four of the ten municipalities to carry a fiscal or money matter vote."

The new system is still a proposal -- and a county council vote must be taken before the new formula can be implemented.

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